

Injury rules out Maskell

GOALKEEPER John Maskell is doubtful for tomorrow's (Saturday) Rothmans Isthmian League, Division 1 return game with Kingstonian at Loakes Park (2.30 p.m.). John jarred an old shoulder injury at Evenwood last week and is likely to be replaced by second string 'keeper Kevin Raine, who has played only 90 minutes for the Blues.

It was confirmed this week that centre half Dave Bullock has cracked his nose as a result of an incident last Saturday in the cup. But he should be able to play tomorrow. Full back Derek Gamblin is now approaching match fitness but it is unlikely he will return to the side just yet. Gamblin broke a knee-cap earlier in the term.

Three more points would be more than welcome for Wanderers for they would then hoist themselves above Hendon for the first time since the early stages of the season. Hendon would still have a game in hand, however, but are still heavily committed with the Amateur Cup.

After their 3-0 Amateur Cup victory at Evenwood last week and the prospect of another trip up North for the next round at Blyth Spartans, Wycombe could find it difficult to offset the challenge of Kingstonian tomorrow. The visitors have already held them to a 0-0 draw at Richmond Road in October and at present are in mid-table.

Last week Kingstonian beat Corinthians Casuals 2-0 in the Surrey Senior Cup but missing from that game were former Wanderers Bernie Bremer and full back Alan Kelsall. They missed training and were consequently dropped for the match and it is uncertain whether they will return against Wycombe.

Another ex-Wycombe man, Trevor Woughman, is top scorer with the club this year having hit 17 goals. Dave Juneman, a recent signing from Tooting and Mitcham, has added strength to the attack, but Trevor Pearce, who gave Larry Pritchard quite a game at Richmond Road, has been unable to keep a regular place in the side.

Now it's away to Blyth Spartans

IF Wycombe Wanderers reach Wembley in the final Amateur Cup competition, it will be the hard way. That's about the only conclusion one can make after yesterday's third round draw paired them away to Northern League champions Blyth Spartans.

Wanderers must have thought they had had their share of bad luck when they were drawn away to Evenwood last week. But their reward for the 3-0 success is another long trip up North — 283 miles in fact.

Reaction to the draw was understandably one of disappointment from Wycombe officials. Manager Brian Lee described it as "The worst draw of the rounds in terms of both travell-

ing and opposition." He felt the pitch would not be as good as Evenwood's but the surroundings and facilities would be more favourable.

Roger Lee, the club treasurer, said the draw was a disaster financially. "We can only be facing a large debt and this draw ends the myth that good cup runs are financially rewarding. We lost about £200 on the Evenwood trip and this is even further to travel."

Wycombe's task will be considerable when one looks at the statistics on Blyth. At present they are top of the Northern

League and have lost just three games — against Crook Town, Tow Law and Willington.

As well as being the Northern League champions, last term they also lifted the League Cup for their first ever league double. Blyth have never won the Amateur Cup in their history but two years ago they reached the semi-final before losing out to Enfield at St. James' Park, Newcastle.

Last term in the same competition, Hendon were among their victims. They drew with them at Blyth but clinched the

replay at Claremont Road. In the last eight they went out to Slough Town.

Like Wycombe, Blyth found success in this year's F.A. Cup. They reached the second round and gave Football League Division 3 side Grimsby town a mighty fright by drawing away from home, before losing the replay at Blyth 3-1.

In the Amateur Cup, Spartans disposed of Sutton Coldfield 3-0 and on Saturday Farcham 2-0 at home.

Brian Lee ruled out the possibility of flying up for this game as the Blues did on Saturday. He said the players would have to travel up on the Friday and stay overnight. Once again, the Wycombe supporters will face a long haul up the A1.